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DECEMBER 13, 1979, ISSUE NO. 50

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
VACATION TIME!
Next issue will be Jan. 3, '80

About the Cover—

The staff of *The Long Island Fisherman* would like to wish all our readers and advertisers *HAPPY HOLIDAYS* and a great 1980 fishing season!

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Scott Simons MANAGING EDITOR
Dr. Wm. A. Muller EDITOR
Al Ristori CONSERVATION EDITOR
Stu Miller ADVERTISING MANAGER
Pete Barrett NEW JERSEY EDITOR
Tim Coleman NEW ENGLAND EDITOR
Rich Reina Jr. PRODUCTION MANAGER

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CORRECTION

Shown on our L.I.F. cover last week were the First and Second Place winners of our 1979 World Series Fishing Contest—Dom Siano, 1st place winner on left and Ken Vey, 2nd place on right—both being congradulated by Helen Jacobson of the Noyac Marina where both had most of their prize winning catches weighed in. Our Third place winner was Michael Townsend who was not present and received his $100 check in the mail. Congratulations to Dom, Ken and Mike from the staff at L.I.F.

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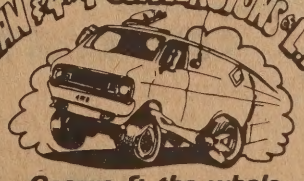

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The Fighting Chair

with Scott Simons

10 QUESTIONS ON DREDGING

Two weeks ago readers of **The Fisherman** were asked to send postcards to Governor Brendan Byrne that said: "I protest! As a recreational sportfisherman and an environmentalist, I protest to the plan of the State of New Jersey to dredge Romer Shoal and demand to know why an Environmental Impact State has not been prepared." We are happy to report that reader response was quick and overwhelming—at last count it was estimated that Governor Byrne had received between six and eight thousand postcards, and they were still pouring in! As of this writing, the Governor has yet to respond to the simple but embarrassing question of how this massive dredging project was able to get through all the various departments of New Jersey government without someone asking for an Environmental Impact Statement to be prepared in order to determine what effect the dredging would have on the marine environment and large scale recreational sportfishing in the area.

But we understand that the Governor is now asking the same question himself, and should be making a statement on the controversy in the near future. If we may be so bold, we would like to suggest that Governor Byrne seek the answers to the following questions before he takes any action on the matter:

ONE. It has been claimed that the New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Division made a study of the effects of dredging in the Romer Shoal area. Yet, despite repeated requests, no one has been permitted to see a copy of this "mysterious" report. Why is New Jersey refusing to make this document public? Does it exist? Who prepared it, and when: before or after the controversy? What are its conclusions.

TWO. Why has New Jersey changed its long-standing policy of not dredging for fill in its own territorial waters? Why didn't New Jersey purchase the fill needed, as it has in the past, when it would only have cost $500 thousand—the same amount it's costing now?

THREE. Did any New Jersey official contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to determine if it has any data on the effect of dredging in this area?

FOUR. Did Howard Heyden of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority tell you that **he** didn't think that the dredging would have any adverse impact on the marine environment, but that he didn't have any written data to back up his "opinion?"

FIVE. When the National Marine Fisheries Service determined that there was "a lack of information about adverse effects" on dredging in this area, why didn't New Jersey have an Environmental Impact Statement prepared to gather information, as required by law?

SIX. Was any study made by New Jersey to determine what effects the dredging would have on the recreational sportfishing industry? Were any representatives of the sportfishing community consulted? Were any environmental organizations such as the American Littoral Society consulted? Was **anybody** consulted?

SEVEN. Was the Environmental Protection Agency consulted on the potential environmental impact this dredging may have on the marine environment?

EIGHT. Was the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service consulted for its opinion on the effects the dredging would have on shellfish, crustaceans and finfish in the area?

NINE. Was the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection asked its opinion of the project? If it was, what was and is that opinion now?

TEN. Was the Division of Marine Services consulted on the advisability of the dredging? If it was, what was and is that opinion?

We contend that if Governor Byrne asks these questions and gets straightforward answers, he will determine that there was absolutely no serious effort on the part of New Jersey to determine if the dredging in the Romer Shoal area would have an adverse impact on the marine environment and the recreational sportfishing industry. The only concern was to provide the needed fill for the access ramps to Newark Airport, with little if any concern for the consequences. Upon finding this to be true, we would hope that Governor Byrne would respond to the public concern, as witnessed by the thousands of postcards protesting the dredging, and immediately put a halt to the project until an Environmental Impact Statement can be prepared. It's the only course of action that makes any sense—after all, access ramps don't vote...but **fishermen** do!

Scott J. Simons

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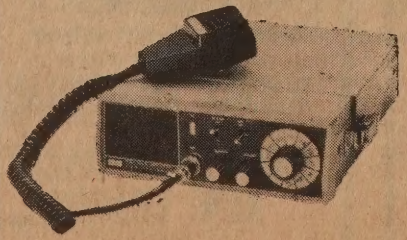

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CHUM LINES

AN OPEN LETTER

Dear Thief: At the end of July, you stole my plug bag from the beach at Point Lookout. Let me congradulate you on your selection of bags, after all there were four other fishermen on the beach.

Every plug and tin in the bag was a proven fish catcher. I know, it took me a lot of years to put it together. You probably do not even know what you took. You are obviously not a sportsman. Allow me to inform you!

1 CD5, 1 J8, 1 J7, Charle Graves tins; 1 FT, Charles Pasquale in Block Tin; 1 Kendon Squid in Block Tin; 1 Jinx Plug; 1 Point Jude sub-surface swimmer in wood; 1 Bottle Plug; 1 Danny Pitchney surface swimmer; 1 Pleuger 1½ ounce Mustang swimmer; 1 specially weighed Cordell Red Fin; 1 Raja Goo Goo Eyes surface swimmer; 1 Point Jude Flap Tail; and 1 customized Atom Junior.

Now at least you know what you took. Let me just say that some of those plugs and tins are very rare and easily recognizable. You were able to hide in the darkness but I don't have to know your face. I know my plugs and my bag. **David D. Curti**

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In regards to your announcement of the increase of your subscription rates due by January 1st, I think the public can safely say that they are getting a bargain for their money. I already have paid thirteen dollars for a years subscription and only received twelve issues not fifty issues. And most magazine would not advertise that their subscripton rates go up at the end of the year in the middle of November and that you can renew for a year or three at the old rate.

I love your magazine and only have a chance to fish occasionally on weekends and holidays so reading your magazine fills in the weeks I can't go fishing. Even though I have not gone for cod, whiting or ling before (I am this winter) I feel I can catch these fish with more knowledge than the average fisherman.

I also like the new color covers you have had for a couple of issues this year and will save those forever. On Wednesdays I rush home to receive your publication in the mail and am disappointed if it is not there. I know that for those two weeks in December that the public doesn't get your magazine, I personally climb a wall and read back issues for two weeks.

So in conclusion keep up the good work and if the subscripton rate were to go up to fifteen dollars I would still pay it for no other magazine offers more for the money. **Edward S. Bivona**

Pass It On...

FLYFISHING CLINICS

"Free" Saltwater Flyfishing Clinics will be held January 7, February 4 and March 3 by "Salty" Flyrodders of N.Y. Inc. Each club session will be devoted to one of three objectives: Fly casting, flytying and line leader preparation, also a popular movie will be presented at each clinic. Place: Grace Lutheran Church, 31-20 21 Ave., Astoria, N.Y. Time: 8 p.m. (Open to interested public)

Because of popularity of 1979, clinics, the "Salty" Flyrodders on N.Y. decided to repeat their demonstrations. For further information contact President Don Avondolio (516) FO8-1155.

COST ART: PIER FISHING

The art isn't lost—but the piers may be, and to those retirees and individuals of limited means this could be a great loss. The New York/Long Island area isn't exactly brimming with piers and jetties and the few still existing do not always have open arms to everyone. Because you don't live in certain townships, or have your own transportation a number of piers are not open to the general public.

Many of the jetties that are accessible pose similar problems and some present even further adverse conditions. Unless you are young and nimble, navigating over the rocks because a serious problem. This condition has always amazed me, for during my surffishing years I remember the jetties of South Jersey. They are wide enough and flat enough to drive your car on if you are of a mind to, and to my knowledge those jetties are in the same condition today.

With all the other problems confronting the fishing fraternity, we tend to always put this subject aside. At almost any meeting of fishermen the comment "how Nassau County has so damn many parks but no piers, etc. for fishing" is always mentioned. Yet, that is where the subject ends, and that's a crime. We all hope to make that retirement age and probably won't keep our boats long after retiring. So where will we fish thereafter?

Well, with this in mind, The New York Sportfishing Council has recently formed a new committee. We call it the Pier Access Committee, and its Chairman, Dr. Martin Hyman, has already started the ball rolling by attempting to have the pier at Rye, New York refurbished, as well as prevents its possible extinction. Along with that project the committee has also contacted bus lines in an attempt to resurrect a service to Captree and other locations.

There are other projects the committee is investigating or planning to become involved with. What they need now is your input, so call Dr. Hyman at (212) 923-1233, or Dave Williams (212) 853-1772 and give them your gripes and suggestions. And if you care to join the committee, that's great, because the task they are undertaking is a monumental one.

BUTTERFISH FISHERY MGT. PLAN APPROVED

The fishery management plan for butterfish, a species caught off the Atlantic coast, has been approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In 1978, this fishery provided almost $3 million in revenues to United States fishermen. In making the announcement, Terry L. Leitzell, NOAA's Assistant Administrator for fisheries, noted that this management plan is significant because it provides a framework to foster both development and stability of a fishery that is not fully used by U.S. fishermen.

The plan, which was developed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, establishes an annual harvest level for butterfish of 11,000 metric tons (mt). United States fishermen are allocated 7,000 mt which is almost double their reported catch in 1978. Fishing fleets from other nations are allocated 4,000 mt, a substantial decrease from their catch levels of the early 1970s. Foreign fishing for butterfish within our 200-mile fishery conservation zone primarily by Japan, Italy, Mexico, and Spain will continue to be strictly monitored by both NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Other major provisions of the plan of interest to U.S. fishermen require: (1) that all commercial and party/charter vessels catching butterfish obtain a free fishing permit; (2) that all permitted vessels maintain and periodically submit reports on their catches; and (3) that all permitted vessels be properly marked with thier official U.S. Coast Guard documentation number.

One provision of the plan was not approved and will not be implemented. The provision would have prohibited all fishing for butterfish within two areas because they are designated Environmental Protection Agency dump sites for municipal sewage sludge and industrial wastes. One area is about fifty miles off Ocean City, Maryland and the other is 106 miles off Delaware Bay. The plan did not contain information to show that either area poses a threat to the butterfish fishery.

NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

ALA Auction Big Success

The annual American League of Anglers auction and raffle, held at the Yale Club on November 30, was the best to date. Over $30,000 was raised for the many donated trips, art works and tackle prizes. Among the many tackle companies cooperating in this venture were: Cortland, Scientific Anglers, Orvis, Shakespeare, Big-Jon, Brule, Daiwa, Luhr Jensen, Harrington & Richardson (Hardy fly reels), Normark, Flambeau, Hildebrandt, T. R. Seidel, Plano, Old Pal, Bruce Mises (Maxima line), DuPont, Al's Goldfish, Eppinger (Dardevle), Johnson Reels, Bevin-Wilcox, Berkley, Atom, U. S. Line, Uncle Josh, J&L Tool and Machine (Gator Grip), Yakima Bait Co., Whopper Stopper, Martin Reel, Pflueger Reel, Penn, Tri-Fin, and Zebco. Doing a superb job of auctioneering were Ray Scott, President of B.A.S.S., and famous trout fisherman, and author Ernie Schwiebert.

Trips were auctioned off to such fabulous resorts as Parismina Tarpon Rancho, Casa Mar and Isla de Pesca in Costa Rica; Boca Paila, on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico; Turneffe Island Lodge, off the Coast of Belize; Tropic Star Lodge, in Panama; the Grimsa or Midfjardara Rivers in Iceland (Atlantic salmon); the Grand Cascapedia River in Canada (Atlantic salmon); and many trips (all guided) to outstanding rivers and streams in upstate New York and many western areas. Among the special treats were two days of quail shooting and one day of deep sea fishing, for a husband and wife, as the guests of former Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nat Reed, at his home in Hobe Sound, Florida; a day with Lefty Kreh on either a Pennsylvania limestone stream, or bass fishing in Maryland or Virginia; two days with Jack Hemingway on Sun Valley, Idaho's famous Silver Creek; and three days of bonefishing with Al McClane at Chub Cay in the Bahamas.

The ALA seeks to protect the waters Americans fish in, and to expand the fishing opportunities available to them. The newly-formed League was helpful in the fight for the 200-Mile Limit, and has since done much good in the effort to protect rivers in all parts of the country. A great deal of their time is now being put into the controversial attempt to place an excise tax on boats and motors that would be dedicated to the Dingell/Johnson Fund.

While the attendance and results of this year's auction were outstanding, it is hoped that next year's will be even better. If you'd like to receive an invitation to the next fund raiser, drop a line to Eileen Barthelmy, ALA, 810 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Steve Sloan Receives The Peter Revson Memorial Award

Steve Sloan has made quite a reputation for himself as a light tackle, big game fisherman. However, his records weren't what earned him the special recognition as recipient of this year's Peter Revson Memorial Award. That award, named after the famous race driver who was an enthusiastic angler, is presented to that individual who has done the most to advance the sport. Steve certainly qualifies in that area. He has been a driving force in the revival of ALA after initial financial problems almost destroyed the organization. It was Steve who organized the first auction in New York last year, as well as another which Curt Gowdy hosted on the West Coast. Steve has also been a big help to the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, and has been very active in supporting a program which provides fishing opportunities for inner city kids. There are many who labor long and hard for better fishing for all, but get scant recognition for their efforts. Steve Sloan certainly stands out among that group and it's entirely appropriate that his efforts were recognized when he was presented with this award at the ALA auction.

Dickey-Lincoln Fight Stalled

The attempt to de-authorize the Dickey-Lincoln project described in last week's column, appears to be stalled in the Senate. This environmentally unsound and financially wasteful dam looks like it's finally on its way out, but the death knell could take some time. Unfortunately, lack of Senate action means that planning studies continue and more of the taxpayers dollars go down the drain!

On June 18, the House of Representatives passed its energy and water appropriations bill for Fiscal 1980 with funds for the Dickey-Lincoln project deleted. However, an attempt by Senator Bill Cohen (R-Maine) to delete appropriations in the Senate was beaten back by a narrow 51-46 vote. The enormous influence of Maine's Senior Senator, Edmund Muskie, prevailed in the Conference Commitee and another $710,000 was wasted on Dickey-Lincoln. This is an excellent example of the "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" syndrome that's led to many wasteful public works projects around the country and contributed to the incredible burden of Federal debt. Senator Muskie sees economic and political benefits for Maine in this project, even though polls indicate that most of that State's citizens have turned against it. The only other true believers are the "public power at any cost" crowd. The rest simply go along in order to get Muskie's approval for their own pet projects, both good and bad. Strangely, one of the Senators voting against de-authorization was Senator Moynihan—despite the fact that he's spoken out strongly against the bartering system that's led to so many unnecessary water projects. Tri-State area Senators supporting de-authorization were Bradley (D-NJ), Javits (R-NY) and Weicker (R-Conn). The Senior Senators in New Jersey (Williams) and Connecticut (Ribicoff) both voted to continue

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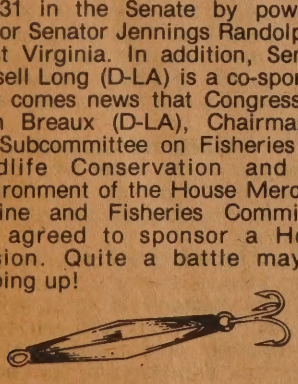
funding. The switch of these three votes in the Tri-State area (which has nothing to gain and everything to lose from Dickey-Lincoln) would have saved the taxpayers $710,000 and, more importantly, preserved New England's last major wilderness river.

Though the Senate de-authorization bill probably won't come up again before Congress recesses for a "district work period" (Christmas vacation), now is the time to write to your Senators urging them to bury this "turkey" once and for all!

Dingell/Johnson Fund Expansion Progresses

Rather surprisingly, the effort to expand the Dingell/Johnson Fund has made considerable progress. During the past twenty-eight years, this fund, sustained by a ten percent manufacturers excise tax on rods, reels, creels and artificial lures, has provided for fisheries preservation, enhancement and research programs. A total of $268 million has been provided over the years, and about $25 million is now being distributed to the states on a matching grant basis of up to $3 for every $1 put up by a state. This is one of the cleanest programs in terms of preventing loss of funds in the Washington bureaucracy. There has long been considerable support within the fishing industry for extending the tax to other types of fishing gear—such as lines and tackle boxes. However, this wouldn't greatly increase the amount of funds available in an era when the requirements are expanding rapidly. Therefore, many conservation groups have proposed that a three percent tax be placed on boats under twenty-five feet, plus motors and boat trailers.

Not surprisingly, the boat and motor manufacturers have strongly opposed such an action as it would force them (like the tackle companies) to act as a tax collector and would also result in price increases at a time when consumers are resisting even the present prices of high ticket items. As the boating industry has a strong lobby in Washington, it was assumed that this effort wouldn't go far. However, the conservation groups succeeded in getting their bill introduced as S.1631 in the Senate by powerful Senior Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia. In addition, Senator Russell Long (D-LA) is a co-sponsor. Now comes news that Congressman John Breaux (D-LA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, has agreed to sponsor a House version. Quite a battle may be shaping up!



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FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

MORE LOOSE ENDS FOR 1979

KILLER BACTERIUM?!! Mr. G. T. Milton sent us a letter of inquiry way back on September 13, 1979, and we'll bet that he, too, felt we had ignored his letter. Although we didn't forget, we did misplace. Sorry, G.T. Anyway, Mr. Milton picked up on a story in his local newspaper that told of a man who died after being bitten by a crab (presumably a blue claw crab). "The attached article was taken from the Sunday Star Ledger, dated September 9. Since I am involved in harvesting shellfish, any bacterium carried by these shellfish that can cause amputation and/or death, is of considerable interest to me. This article has prompted the following questions. It is my hope that you can supply the answers.

1. When the article says 'bite,' does it mean an actual bite with the crab's mouth or can this disease be transmitted by the crab grabbing someone with its pinchers...(claws)?

2. Since this marine vibrio is found in oysters, is it also found in clams?

3. Will cooking kill the vibrio? How much heat and for what length of time must the heat be applied to kill the bacteria?

4. I clam barefoot. The additional 'feel' usually permits me to double the amount of clams that I take compared to my buddies who wear sneakers. My feet always have a number of small cuts. I usually soak my feet in hot water/detergent when I get home and apply antiseptic to the cuts. Is the foregoing action sufficient to prevent contracting marine vibrio?"

A LOT OF MEAT TO THAT LETTER! Before I attempt to answer Mr. Milton's letter, let me tell all of you, without repeating the entire newspaper article, that the story tells of a man who was bitten by a crab, developed a mild infection, was unsuccessfully treated with antibiotics, and then had his leg amputated as physicians attempted to prevent his death. The disease and the surgery weakened him, and he suffered a fatal heart attack twelve days after being bitten. The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia said that they recorded thirty-nine cases in humans in the past year. The newspaper article was only about three hundred words long, and did not go into very much scientific detail. Thus, the lack of detailed data makes it hard for me to know precisely what happened; and, therefore, it becomes a difficult and perhaps inappropriate task to answer these questions. Nonetheless, I'll try, as long as Mr. Milton, you remember that I could be answering about oranges, while the situation involved apples!

PROBABLY LITTLE TO FEAR! The event makes interesting news, but I don't believe that we should all stop digging and eating clams or any other shellfish. The newspaper article pointed out in a sort of unclear way that the crabber did not die from the bite, but rather from a heart attack that was induced by the trauma of his experiences. The article did not offer the age of the bitten man, but I'll bet he was getting on in years. The newspaper story headline reads: "Crabber Dies After Leg Bite." Now that headline implies that the cause of death was the bite, but a careful reading reveals only that the man died at some time following the bite. The bite becomes a time reference—not a cause of death. This is a journalistic trick. Now, there is a group of bacteria, called the **Vibrios** that includes the species **Vibrio cholerae.** This bacterium causes the human disease cholera. Before you get upset, cholera is no longer a serious health problem in the United States due to improved health care and sanitation, and furthermore, that bacteria cannot survive very long in sea water. However, **Vibrio parahaemolyticus** does have a sodium chloride requirement (sodium chloride is salt). This species is rather widespread in sea water and causes gastrointestinal disease in humans. The symptoms of such a disease would be cramps, nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting, but it would not be likely that anyone would die from such an infection.

TOXIN AGAINST HEART MUSCLE! The one little fly in the ointment involves a recent discovery that **Vibrio parahaemolyticus** produces an exotoxin (released from the bacteria rather than retained inside the bacterium) that attacks heart muscle. If that is the case, then it might be argued that the infection in the leg released the toxins that brought on the heart attack. However, what is missing here is a positive isolation of the disease organism(s) and, therefore, we have no proof that **Vibrio parahaemolyticus** was the organism involved. It is possible that the crab was carrying on its body a high concentration of some other bacteria such as **Pseudomonas**, for example. We also do not know where the man was, or what kind of bacteria he may have been carrying on his own body via a previous contact. We also do not know what the water quality was at the time of the bite. Perhaps recent water contamination was the cause and some other human pathogen (disease causing agent) was introduced by the bite and was responsible for the infection. That's what I mean! There are too many intangibles to be sure without firsthand experience and data from cultures, samples, and tests.

WHAT DOES BITE MEAN? I'm almost certain that "bite" refers to being clawed rather than being noshed. Crabs will defend themselves by attempting to grab with their claws, but it would take quite awhile before they could get around to an actual bite. Therefore, since I believe that a human would object rather quickly to being clawed, the likelihood of a real bite is very, very remote!

IS IT FOUND IN CLAMS? It is widespread in sea water and, therefore, we should not be surprised to encounter the species anywhere in the estuary.

WILL COOKING HELP? The only way to be sure that you have killed all of the bacteria is to autoclave whatever it is that you believe is contaminated. This requires steam at high heat and pressure for twenty minutes and I don't think it's the

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kind of thing you would want to subject your fine seafood to before eating. I feel certain that most foods would come out either hard and rubbery or soft as mush!

ARE SOAKS AND ANTISEPTICS ENOUGH? Since you may be clamming for hours with one or more cuts before you get home for the treatment, that is plenty of time for the bacteria to work into your bloodstream and tissues. However, although I wouldn't advise anyone to clam with bare feet, I see no reason why fear of this bacteria should stop you. The thought of a foot-long gash inflicted by a broken bottle should be more prominent in your mind! Furthermore, it is likely that if you have been clamming this way for as long as you imply, that you have been exposed to every bacteria that our local ocean has to offer and, therefore, by now you should have a terrific array of antibodies to fight off a heavy infection of any of them.

EFFECT OF A PRIOR AILMENT? You also wanted to know whether a prior liver ailment might make you more susceptible to the infection. By prior, I presume you mean some time ago and that you have recovered? YES? If so, then it shouldn't make a difference. You may be wondering about why, from time to time, we read about strange and uncommon diseases. Well, there are several ideas on this; but the most likely explanation is that there are so many of us alive today with such diverse physiologies and medical histories that from time to time, one of us is bound to come down with a strange disease or have a rare reaction to contact with one substance or another. The liver is one of the most miraculous organs in the body since it performs an array of different and life-sustaining functions. One job of the liver is to hang onto and rid the body of toxic materials and another is to store the body's reserves of carbohydrates. However, the liver is not directly involved in disease recovery and, therefore, although a weakened and damaged liver may contribute to a general physiological weakening and thus compound the progress and/or treatment of a given disease, a weakened liver will not prevent the body from producing antibodies and fighting off the infection.

IT ISN'T WISE TO WORRY ABOUT SLIM ODDS! Gosh, there are enough serious dangers in our everyday lives that we shouldn't worry about being hit by lightning or vibrio bacterial infections. Contracting the common cold is more likely to kill you than a vibrio, simply because there are so many cold infections and so few vibrio infections.

NEW YEAR GOODIES!!! I hope that I haven't overlooked any one of you who may have written in during 1979. If I have, write me another letter and this time make it **hostile!** That'll get my attention. In 1980 we have some goodies planned for you. Of course, I'll have the results of the flounder quiz that ran last fall. Any of you who have not returned your test scores and want to be included in the results, send them in now. We also hope to offer a giveaway through this column; that is, win a prize because—in one way or another—you read this column. More about this in 1980; so keep reading. We also plan more quizzes since many of you got a jolly or two out of the last one. Maybe we can persuade Dr. Clean to give us his test for weakfish and stripers in 1980? As is our usual practice, we will keep you up-to-date on the scientific side of fishing and the ecology of it, too. We'll answer your letters and look forward to the kind leads that many of you send in about current issues of importance to us all!

AND MORE! In 1980, we plan to be very busy as you can see. However, this is your column and we'd like to put into it what you want to read about. Therefore, write to me c/o The Fisherman and tell me what you want on this page—even if that means Rex, the Wonder Dog!

HAVE A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND WE'LL SEE YOU IN 1980!

This is no fish story.

The powerful four-wheel drive and sturdy design of our Broncos and pick-ups make them rugged, reliable beach travelers regardless of climate or shore conditions.

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

RESOLUTIONS...

Well, I suppose that weather-wise, we fellows have had it. It is too bad, too, for certainly there are enough cod about to make it worthwhile, plus capable party boat skippers willing to try whenever sufficient fishermen take it upon themselves to give it a shot. But all in all, you will find most of us fellows are content to sit and let the winter winds howl, content to relive the past year's fishing experiences while preparing for the Holiday Season. There is nothing wrong with that, of course, and I'm all for it. It is only from a fisherman's viewpoint that I dislike this time of year. But what do you do after that hectic, joyous season has passed? What do you do until those first faint stirrings of spring flounder send that exquisite sense of anticipation coursing through your veins? Well, if you are lucky like my fishing buddy, Artie Leidecker, you will spend that time in the Florida Keys. But if you are an average Joe like me, you'll go over all your gear, put everything to rights, lay in a fresh supply of needed terminal tackle, check over your record books and make comparisons as to how good or how bad the past year's fishing actually was. But when you and I have completed that bit of work, we'll find there's yet plenty of time to kill. What do you do then? Easy. You make resolutions; sensible resolutions that will certainly improve your fishing if you stick with them. I know it has been said a million times that resolutions are made to be broken, but this applies only to the faint of heart—not to the dedicated fisherman interested in improving his fishing.

What kind of resolutions do I make at the start of each new year? Surprisingly, none. I no longer find it necessary to do so. I made all mine years ago—and I strive mightily to keep and adhere to them every fishing day. They've become second nature: an ingrained habit that no longer requires thought on my part. It is like driving a car. We no longer think of the skills necessary to propel that car down the road and keep it there. It is the same with resolutions. If you apply that principle while trudging along the road to good fishing, you'll find you no longer think of the many skills required to put fish in your bucket. Well thought-out, workable resolutions are a means to that end.

I'll list those resolutions that have helped me over the years, but I won't put them down in their order of importance. What may seem important to me may not necessarily be so for the type of fishing you do. But somewhere along the line, all will apply in one form or another. But don't treat lightly those of your choice. Either you make up your mind to put them to use at some time during the coming year, or, truthfully, you are wasting your time by reading further.

Resolution #1: Resolve that you will always seek an opportunity to experiment—even on those days when fishing is good and there actually is no need to do so. What you learn by doing this may, in the future, turn the trick when suffering through the torment and pangs of those slow days we all fall heir to. This experimental-learning has happened to me, and it has happened to other fishermen. So don't mind the jibes and ridicule of those who should know better. Who's to know if your experiment fails? Only you and the fish—and they aren't talking.

Resolution #2: Resolve that you will learn the extreme importance of correct terminal tackle, plus its advantages and pitfalls under particular fishing conditions. Check Page Three of this issue for ordering back copies and send off for Issue #28, 1979 for further information if you wish the lowdown.

Resolution #3: Resolve that you will learn all you can about fishhooks. This item of your tackle has mesmerized every dyed-in-the-wool fisherman I have ever known—and will continue to do so. Why this should be, I can't for the life of me tell you. But it is so.

I know one fisherman who makes it a practice of keeping aside any hook on which he has caught an outsized fish. He has a multitude of these hooks, ranging from flounder to cod, all neatly arranged as to their history. Who is this fisherman? Me. And on those cold winter evenings, it isn't unusual for me to bring out those hooks and relive the events that caused those particular hooks to be segregated from their fellows. Perhaps you are thinking this is going a little overboard, and perhaps it is; but don't scoff, for this is quite likely to happen when one becomes a genuine hook fanatic—it might even happen to you! Recheck Issue #48, 1979, to bring you up-to-date on hooks.

Resolution #4: Resolve that you are going to keep a fishing record. I suppose of all these resolutions, this could be classified as one of the most important—if not **the** most important.

Let me say that I have been keeping fishing records for well over fifty years. I can tell you exactly how many snappers and yearling mackerel I caught in 1926 when I was twelve years old. I can tell you where I caught them (Sheepshead Bay), on what tide, on what hook, and who was with me. Fish-wise, these records are no longer of value (they were at the time, of course), but now their nostalgic value has proven priceless.

It will soon be two years since I wrote an article on record keeping and how to go about it. Within the next couple of months, I will write another. If you feel as though you don't wish to wait that long to get started, send off for Issue #8, 1978. For what record keeping will do in aiding you to increase your catch, those few pennies you spend may well be the best investment of your fishing career.

Resolution #5: Resolve that you are going to learn how to fillet fluke and flounder. All those good fishermen I've ever met over the years have had this skill—and skill it is. But unlike many skills, it isn't difficult to learn how to fillet. If this is of interest to you, order a copy of Issue #9, 1979 for flounder filleting; Issue #24, 1979 for fluke filleting. Easy to follow, step-by-step photos are included. Incidentally, with slight modification, you can substitute flounder for fluke, and vice-versa in these articles; but it is better to treat each separately.

Resolution #6: Resolve that you are going to learn to clean fish quickly and easily. It isn't a bit difficult; Issue #35, 1979 tells how.

Resolution #7: Resolve that you are going to learn all you can about your fish of interest. You can never learn too much, and there is still much to know. We, as fishermen, have only scratched the surface. Every fishing day will teach something of which you were unaware. But while you wait for the first blush of spring, now is the time to check out your local public library. Those shelves are loaded with any type of fishing one can imagine, all written by past masters of the art. Take advantage of this windfall.

Incidentally, the LIF offers in-depth fishing books on weakfish, flounder, fluke, and even trout for those fellows who wish to change their spots. Nowhere have I found better; and you may be sure these are in my library. Check the ads.

Resolution #8: Resolve that you will learn how to snell your own hooks and how to make the Perfection Loop so necessary for a professional-looking job. You'll save a bundle of money if you do much fishing. And if you go in for experimentation in a big way, this knowledge is indispensable. Issue #48, 1977 tells you how, with easy-to-follow descriptions and diagrams.

Resolution #9: Resolve that sometime during this coming spring, you are going to learn how to catch blackfish. Once you master old chisel-tooth, you will find all our other bottom feeders become duck soup. The LIF has

(Continued on page 12.)

UNUSUAL FISH OF '79

BY FRED GUARDINEER

MOST OF THE UNUSUAL FISH CAUGHT THIS PAST SEASON IN THE N.Y. BIGHT END UP IN BABYLON, L.I. AT THE HUGE SHOP OF *"FISH UNLIMITED TAXIDERMY"* OWNED AND MANAGED BY SPORTSMAN JEFF SCHNEIDER WHO ALSO OWNS A WORLD RECORD BLUEFISH. THE FISH SHOWN BELOW ARE NOW BEING MOUNTED.

WORLD RECORD MAKO SHARK, 1080 LBS, CAUGHT BY JIM MELANSON OF BOSTON, MASS. ABOARD CAPT. FRANK MUNDUS' BOAT "CRICKET" AUG. 26, 25 MILES SOUTH OF MONTAUK POINT. IT IS THE LARGEST MAKO EVER CAUGHT ON ROD AND REEL.

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FLYING FISH BROUGHT INTO CHARVIN FREEPORT, L.I. FISHING STATION BY A LOCAL OFFSHORE FISHERMAN.

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AN ARAWANA, A FOOT LONG TROPICAL TANK FISH THAT COMMITTED SUICIDE BY ESCAPING OVER THE TOP. NATIVE TO SOUTH AMERICA, ASIA & AFRICA. RETAILS AT $200.00.

IN THE WILD ARAWANAS ARE A SPORT FISH- JUMP LIKE SALMON & GOOD TO EAT!

BLUE MARLIN SHOWED UP IN THE NORTH-EAST THIS SEASON. ON HAND ARE 5 BILLFISH WEIGHING IN AT 505, 480, 355, 221 & 125 LBS.

BLOWFISH FROM L.I. WATERS. A VERY SCARCE FISH LATELY - ONCE TRASH, NOW HIGHLY PRIZED.

ORANGE FILEFISH, SHINNECOCK, L.I.

BLUE MARLIN

7 LB. **LARGEMOUTH BASS,** SMITH'S POND, L.I.

BESIDES PRESERVING EVERY KNOWN FISH, THE SHOP HANDLES MOST OF THE WORLD'S ANIMALS - GRIZZLY BEARS TO CHIPMUNKS - INCLUDING TWO ADIRONDACK BLACK BEARS SHOT THIS FALL BY JEFF. THIS IS ALSO A RARE HUNTING FEAT.

Surf Side with Andy Regina

The Silent Surf

There is something about fishing from the surf that has a strange fascination for a lot of people, a certain "something" that you can't exactly put your finger on. This appeal, or charm, or charisma, is so overwhelming to some of us, that we actually forsake everything else to indulge our fascination. Wives, lovers, children, entire families and comfortable homes; life-long friends and social affairs; business and politics—everything is often neglected as we trudge down to the altar of the sea to pay homage to our calling. To some of us, it is the persistent possibility that we might encounter the fish of our dreams, some record-breaking monster that may turn up on the next cast; to others, it is merely the sweet serenade of the breeze, tickling the tips of the sawgrass as it blows over the dunes. This "something" is so great, that if it once gets into your blood, you can become as hopelessly addicted to it as hardened junkies, who mainline heroin to perpetuate their own dreams.

Doc Muller calls it the supreme test, man against fish, sort of like one-on-one. Ray Hendrickson waxes enthusiastic over a wind-swept beach, and Frank Woolner is more aesthetic, calling to mind low scudding clouds, a lone gull dipping below a wave crest, or the tangy smell of bracing salt air. Cut it any way you want, it is all sliced from the same pie; and once a beach rat, always a beach rat—and nothing or no one can change it.

We cut our piscatorial teeth at an early age, and the surf was chosen as our teething ring, out of convenience and necessity. Our country was just starting to recover from the throes of the Depression, and money was still hard to come by. We simply could not afford the cost of a charter, nor could we come up with the fare for a party boat, even though that fare at the time was only about three dollars. Things were so bad that we couldn't even consider chipping in with a friend or two for a rental skiff; so because we wanted to fish, we turned to the surf—it was as simple as that.

But it was far from being simple, and there was a lot of learning and hard work that had to be done. Our tools were not the sophisticated modern-day equipment that today's beginner has in his favor. But they were the best available to us at that time, so we made do with what we had. Mastering the art of casting linen line from a side-winding wooden reel that was affixed to a bamboo rod was difficult at best. We learned to first wet that linen line in a pre-cast, so we wouldn't burn our thumbs on dry line flowing from our reel during a cast. And we learned why those reels were called "knuckle-busters," because the reel had no free spool, and the handles revolved when you cast and usually rapped the knuckles of your hand as you tried to control the line with your thumb.

We learned because we had no other choice: it was either learn, or give up the beach. If we gave up the beach, it meant we had to give up fishing—so we learned. By digging or scrounging our own bait, and by bringing a sandwich or two from home, we could afford to go fishing. Most of our fishing was done from the beaches at Coney Island and Rockaway, because those two particular places were easily accessible to us via the subway, and a round trip on the subway then only cost a dime: five cents each way. Other beaches, such as Jones Beach, cost a bit more to get to because we had to use a bus from the subway to get there, so naturally we only fished at Jones Beach when we could afford the extra twenty or thirty cents that round trip cost.

We would bring along two rods: one for fishing bottom with bait, and the other to use for fishing lures.

We started fishing in the surf when conventional reels and "hot" linen were our only tools—and we loved it!

We dreamt of catching stripers and bluefish on lures; but a batch of panfish—say, some blowfish caught off the Breezy Point jetty—was always a welcome addition to Mom's table. The lures then were mainly tin squids—metal lures with a fixed single hook—made from a tin-lead alloy that could be polished to a dull sheen by rubbing it in the sand. We had no plugs at that time, although they made an appearance shortly after the war (World War II), some monstrous-looking things called Atom Swimmers.

Our rods were the jointed kind, so they could be handled easier in public transportation vehicles, and all our gear was carried in a knapsack, which left one hand free to carry the fish home—if you got lucky. I can distinctly remember never having trouble finding a seat in a crowded subway car, even during the rush hour, any time I brought fish home.

And so we passed our teens, spending our nights in quest of stripers, and evoking ridicule from our peers, who spent their own nights in more normal teen-age activities—such as dating or drag racing, or what have you. The solitude of the beach at night was far more appealing to us than the harsh blare of the juke box at the corner hangout; the sound of the surf, sweeter music than the big bands of that bygone yesterday. We fell in love about that time, too; not with some sparkling-eyed bobby soxer, but with that mysterious siren who called to us just as sweetly as the Lorelei must have called to ancient seamen on the Rhine. And we were clutched to the bosom of the sea, not envying friends who were being clutched to warmer, much softer bosoms in the back seat of some hot-rod.

As times got better, our economic standing got better also. Now there was a battered 1937 Chevy sitting in the parking field of Beach #9 at Jones Beach, instead of being parked in some drive-in movies, or on some secluded lovers' lane. That same old car carried us to that Mecca of surfmen—Montauk Point—taking some four hours to do so on the old Montauk Highway. We were still in love.

And our love persisted through adversity. Strictly a one-sided affair, we were constantly rebuffed by cold waves that crashed down on us, invading the warm comfort of new foul weather gear. We were drenched with rain and pelted with hailstones; we had sand in our reels, sand in our shoulder bag, sand in our ears, and in our hair; and naturally, sand in our sandwiches—but we kept coming back for more. If we froze, our zeal warmed us; if we got hungry, our desire fed us; and if we got skunked (as was often the case), well, there was always the next tide, or the next moon, or the next trip, that would see us put fish on the stringer.

Growing up has a nasty habit of terminating love affairs, and as we grew up we were weaned away from the beach. It was not voluntarily, and we still had the memory of our first love indelibly etched in our heart. Can anyone truly forget their first love affair? I seriously doubt it very much; but time and circumstance conspired to separate us anyhow. Service in the Army was followed by marriage soon after discharge, which in turn was followed by children—in all too-quick order. Now the responsibility of raising a family consumed much of my leisure time, and I seemed to be working night and day, just to meet the bills.

As I grew older, the kids grew up, and now what leisure time I had was spent in fishing from boats, because it was more convenient. Not that I forgot about my love, though, because we still sought her out at every opportunity, straining to get a glimpse of her as we drove over some bridge, or along some parkway that skirted her edges. How could I forget her, when the heady perfume of her salt air filled my lungs?

And she was always there waiting, calling me softly, until I could ignore her no longer. Now I just had to hit the beach again—any beach! Once more I settled for that prostitute of ideals—convenience—and settled for whatever was near at hand because it was closer. Instead of an ocean beach, I opted for the North Shore of Long Island Sound.

It is not a poor substitute by any means—only different. And being different does not mean that it is any less appealing either, but you have to learn to adjust to appreciate any new love.

Exchange that eleven foot production rod and squidding reel for an eight foot spinning rod and an intermediate spinning reel; substitute the booming crash of incoming breakers for the gentle boot-tug of wavelets; replace hard-packed sand with gravel. Instead of the roar of the surf, picture the merry tinkle of a receding wave as it scurries back to the Sound. Close your eyes, and you are on the North Shore of Long Island Sound. Welcome to my world. Welcome to the realm of my silent surf.

SINKER BOUNCING

(Continued from page 10.)

contained many excellent blackfishing articles over the years. To bring you up to date, check this past fall's copies and I'm sure you will find enough information on blackfish to keep you busy on many fishing days. Don't treat the blackfish lightly. He's a tough character to beat. This is one fish which will definitely hone your fishing skill.

Resolution #10: Resolve that by this time next year you will be well on your way to becoming a self-sufficient fisherman. It will take time, no question about it, but if you faithfully follow these ten resolutions (or those you have purposely selected), there is no doubt that your fishing will improve.

Your golden opportunity is at hand. Take advantage of it!

The Long Island FISHERMAN

Will be taking a short winter vacation during the last two weeks in December. This will be the last issue until we start our *Mid-Winter Package* with the January 3rd, 1980 issue— Until then, we wish our readers

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Deep Water Cod Jigging

Part II — Making the Ultra Light Deep Jig Rod

by Ken Gerhardt

Last week, we discussed the birth of a new concept in deep jigging rods, utilizing graphite's light weight and great stiffness as a new approach to an old and deadly fishing method.

The following is a list of materials needed to construct the rod. The components list out at approximately $175; but through a special arrangement with Midland Tackle, 66 Route 17, Sloatsburg, New York 10974, they will supply the complete kit for $100, including postage and handling. Please mention this article for the special Fisherman readers' price.

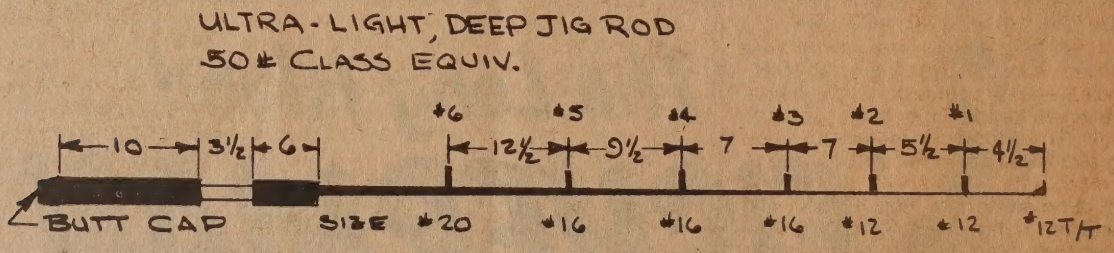
Materials:

Blank—Lamiglas GBT841H
Guides—Perfection, aluminum oxide, (1) #20, (3) #16, (2) #12
Tiptop—#12 aluminum oxide
Rear Grip—Hypalon 10"x7/8
Fore Grip—Hypalon 6"x5/8
Butt Cap—3/4" rubber
Tiptop—#12 aluminum oxide

GUIDE & GRIP SPACING CHART:

Underwrap Detail.

1. Lay blank out on bench and cut 3¼" off tip.
2. Next, put a piece of masking tape on shaft near the butt. Holding the shaft at approx. 45° to the floor, rotate blank until a definite change in stiffness is felt (stiffer). This is the spine of the blank. Mark a line on top of masking tape to record spine and transfer it to the tip on another piece of tape.
3. Place the rubber butt cap over the end of the blank. No cement is necessary.
4. Slide rear grip down shaft length till it stops. Do not force. Move it back up towards the tip so it slides easily. Coat the shaft below the rear grip with Elmer's Glue. This acts as a lubricant. Rotate the grip in the glue. Rest the butt end against a

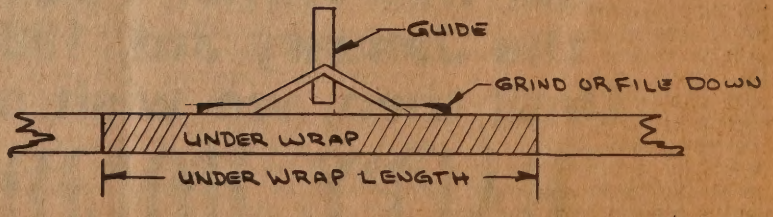


GUIDE SPACING & SIZE LAYOUT
BLANK LAMIGLAS GBT 84 1H

KCG 10-79

UNDER WRAP SIZING CHART

GUIDE #	SIZE	UNDERWRAP LENGTH
1	12	3"
2	12	3"
3	16	3½"
4	16	3½"
5	16	3½"
6	20	4"



KCG 10-79

solid base and push sponge grip down to the butt cap.

5. Repeat with fore grip, re-coating with Elmer's Glue if necessary. Push to within 3½'' of rear grip. Wash rod shaft with cold water to remove Elmer's Glue.

6. Using thin strips of masking tape, lay out the underwraps for the guides. (See sketch.)

7. Install tiptop with ferrule cement; not Epoxy. Do not overheat the ceramic T/T. Coat blank tip with Ferrule cement. Hold T/T with moist rag and heat gently with a candle. When warm to touch, **carefully** reheat cement on blank while rotating the blank until cement bubbles. Put T/T on blank and rotate it to match up with line mentioned in step #2.

8. Wrap the underwraps with a light-colored NCP thread size D. I used yellow.

9. Prepare #20 guide by filing or grinding the feet. Tape on #20 guide after aligning with T/T. Wrap with dark thread; I used black, size D. Repeat for all guides and wrap a short decorative wrap at the T/T.

10. Coat windings with any of the new epoxy finishes or varnish if desired. The author used Epoxy. Follow the directions on the package carefully and excellent results will be obtained.

1. After the wrapping finish is dry, wind a layer of cork tape in the 3½'' opening between the grips. Cover this with two layers of vinyl tape.

Most people think the 11½'' butt is too short. It seems that way because we northeastern fishermen are used to the long butts on boat rods. The Florida anglers who deep jig almost all the time, pioneered the shorter butt. This allows the rod to be jammed into a belt holder and the reel handle turned with much less strain than if it were eighteen or twenty-four inches out from your belly.

The power of this rod for its weight is a little short of amazing. It weighs about what a light flounder rod in glass weighs, but has the muscle to drag a fifty pound cod up through two hundred feet of water, and the backbone to move up to sixteen ounce jigs and teasers. Why not? Its fifty pound regulation tackle cousins tame three hundred pound tuna, marlin, sharks—and God knows what else.

If the price seems high, it really is not that much more than a commercial glass rod, but its utility is far greater. If you have your own boat you, of course, can jig with it, drag wire with it, liveline with it, and bottom fish with it. Teamed up with the Newell Reel, it is the lightest, most powerful outfit currently obtainable. This one rod and reel can be used for virtually every type of fishing we encounter in this area and do it so comfortably as to be almost sinful.

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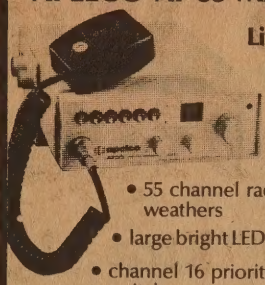

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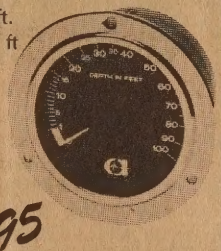

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MUD HOLE WHITING

by Rich Giessuebel

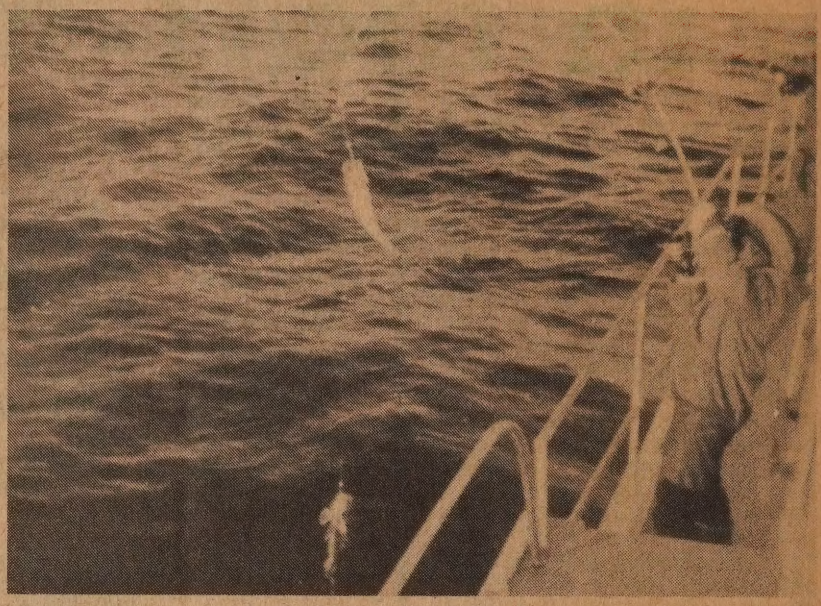
The Mud Hole is a great spot to catch fish all year-round. Here is where you can fish our favorite winter species (whiting and ling) all summer long. The water in the Mud Hole is very deep, ranging from about 100' up in the north near the Ambrose Tower; down to about 220' due east of Shark River and because of this depth, the water here stays fairly cold all year long and enables the winter species to take up summer residence. Then, once the cold starts to set in—somewhere around late November—so do the whiting and ling. The ling come first and set up shop in the north, while the whiting wait for their preferential temperatures and then they invade the entire shore.

From Ambrose Tower in the north, and due east of Shark River in the south there is good whiting fishing. For beginners, let's note that this entire area falls into the part of the ocean called the major north/south shipping lanes (traffic lanes). When out here fishing, you've got to be constantly on the alert for a larger tanker or a barge being towed by a tug bearing down on you. Then, again, this isn't a place where you can legally anchor.

Since the Mud Hole is about twelve miles out from Sandy Hook and about fourteen miles out from Shark River, you just can't venture out here all the time. And forget about westerly winds being all right, too. Out in the Mud Hole, a northwest wind is just as devastating as winds out of any other quadrant. Wave heights build, and where the northeast winds flatten out the surf, they surely build by the time they reach this far offshore. So, only venture out here when you've got a pretty good idea of what the weather will be like.

Once you've reached the Mud Hole, you should be prepared to fish multi-hooked rigs. My favorite has six hooks on it and each one is about a foot apart from the other, giving me a span of some six feet off the bottom. The rig is made as follows: I use twenty-five pound test line and every foot, I make a droppler loop in it. The loop I make about two inches in diameter. Then, I add either a red bead or a white pearl over the doubled-up line. Then, I attach a #2 long-shanked hook directly to the droppler. Move the bead forward until it meets the hook, and you have a very effective combination of hooks.

What I like best about having my hooks so close to my line is that you hardly ever get a tangle-up. Also, it's very easy to bring several fish up at a time. And that is the whole premise about fishing a six-hook rig. When in the Mud Hole and fishing at depths of over two hundred feet, it's certainly ridiculous to reel all the way up for a single fish. In fact, if you should do this all day, you'd be about as tired as if you'd been out bluefishing all day. Therefore, multi-hooks and multi-hookings!



Author's son with double-header.

The bait that you should use in the Mud Hole is fish. I like to examine the contents of the fish I catch, and the fish coming from this area are usually loaded with bait fish. Sure, every once in awhile, some fish will have some bottom crustacean like a crab or some shrimp; however, for the most part, it's either sand eels, small whiting, or some other small bait fish. With this in mind, I like to start off with strips of mackerel and once I've produced my first whiting, I cut him up and use the strips I've made from him for bait. The strips should be about two or three inches long and rather narrow. They should have a piece of skin on them to add toughness. The hook then just penetrates the skin once and the strip is allowed to hang off the hook. With the mackerel, the hits should be hooked. That is, a lot of whiting fishermen (myself included) will allow the whiting to hook himself. However, with mackerel, they can steal your bait; so nail the first couple of whiting, cut them up for bait, and then change your tactics.

The new tactics employed should be to hook the first hit you feel, and then to allow your baits to remain down for quite sometime. This is called filling up. After the first fish is hooked, others will come around and grab the other baits. These fish will usually hook themselves, and after several minutes, you can haul up a double or triple header or more. This, then, is how to go about filling your sack while at the Mud Hole.

Now, where should you fish. Well, you've got several choices. What I'd suggest is that you find Ambrose Tower. This is the northern-most junction of the Mud Hole and is the easiest found. From the Tower, simply head southeast or at 135° for a distance of one mile and you'll be at 17 Fathoms. The water here is only about one hundred feet deep and when the whiting first start to move, they will be caught rather heavily from here. Further to the south, the ocean's bottom begins to drop. By Buffer Buoy, the depths are about one hundred fifty feet deep. Fish actually summer here, and it's not unusual to find tuna here feeding on them. Hence, a big ling becomes a prime tuna bait.

Still further south, and at a heading of about 90° from Shark River, you come to the Goulandris wreck. This lies in about two hundred feet of water, and is very hard to find. In fact, some party boat skippers will locate this wreck and then mark its location with a buoy so that when they get back out into the same general vicinity, they will be able to get situated quickly. Another wreck out here that is quite often mentioned is the Arunda, which is about seven miles southeast of the last wreck and which lies on a 100° heading from Shark River.

FREE FISHING in the Tortugas

by Al Ristori

There aren't many readers of this magazine who would hesitate at taking up an offer of a free fishing trip to relatively virgin waters. However, most would think twice about laying out $104 for a weekend fishing trip, even if the prospect of catching a great variety of game fish is hard to resist. Fortunately, there is now a way to get around this dilemma. The "Viking Starship," sailing out of Key West this winter, has come up with a system that provides the fisherman with the best of both worlds. Though the fare is steep, a fish house buys all the fish the customers want to sell back at the dock—with the result that most can catch their fare, or even make a profit!

The reason you can be pretty much assured of success on these trips is the remoteness of the area being fished. The Dry Tortugas are located about seventy-five miles west of Key West. While there is a great deal of shrimping done in the area, and a few commercial boats bottom fish there, the reefs just haven't been hit as hard as those along the populated keys. Indeed, there is so much good bottom that Captain Paul Forsberg has a difficult time trying to decide where to go first.

In evaluating the fishing in the Tortugas, fishermen must first realize that the productivity of tropical waters is nothing like that found in temperate zones. The huge catches of cod, pollack, whiting, ling, porgies, and other northern bottom fish are rarely duplicated in the south. In reef fishing, it is normally necessary to work hard for a substantial catch, as the fish are scattered over broad areas. Even in the Tortugas, it's necessary to move frequently, as the fish in any given spot can be quickly thinned out and chumming will only bring in others located in the immediate area.

Despite the fact that you're not likely to haul fish two at a time all day and night, there's a special thrill to fishing the reefs. The thing I find most exciting is the variety of fish and sizes available. Silvery porgies and margates take a back seat to the colorful snappers and rugged-looking groupers. The same bait that produces a two pound yellowtail could be swallowed by a fifty pound grouper—or your catch may be swallowed on the way up by a huge shark or jewfish.

The composition of the catch changes from trip to trip. When the Starship arrived last December, the fish box was usually filled with big yellowtail snappers ("flag" yellowtails, in Key's parlance). If you've never caught anything but the little yellowtails that inhabit inshore areas, it will be quite a thrill to hook up with "flags" running up to six or seven pounds. Big yellowtails have become almost impossible to catch without live bait (preferably pilchards) in heavily fished areas, but will attack squid, balao, and mullet quite readily in the Tortugas. Though yellowtails never grow to great sizes (eight or nine pounds may be the maximum), they are outstanding game fish and as good in the pan as any species I've encountered.

In February, the catch of yellowtails dropped off and mutton snappers took over the spotlight. There was hardly reason to be upset over that. Muttons are bigger, stronger fish. In some spots they may average five to eight pounds; while other areas will product muttons that run ten to fifteen pounds or more. Unlike the long, slim yellowtails. muttons have a stockier build more typical of the snapper family and enough red coloration to be confused with red snappers by amateurs.

Most abundant of the groupers are the reds, a relatively small species averaging about three to six pounds. Reds do grow much bigger, but seem to be unusual in the larger sizes. The scamp is another grouper that usually weighs less than ten pounds, but is probably the best eating of the lot. Yellowfins run larger and are easily identified by the yellow margins on their pectoral fins. The big guys are the blacks—groupers that run to codfish sizes. The Starship has had several over fifty pounds, with the biggest at 59½ lbs.

Other major species caught on the Tortugas grounds include the southern porgy and the margate. If you've ever wondered what it would be like to fight a five pound porgy—this is the place to indulge your fantasy. Tortugas porgies average about four pounds, and are common in the five to seven pound range. They look and fight just like the porgies we're used to, but aren't nearly as abundant. Margate look like even bigger porgies as they come to the gaff—though they're actually large members of the grunt family. Their silvery body is a little longer than that of the porgies, and the mouth is quite large. Margates hit best at night and average five to ten pounds in weight.

While those are the major species, they are but a few of the dozens you may encounter. Strawberry "groupers" are common in some spots. Actually, the strawberries are hind—close relatives to the groupers. They run one to three pounds in weight and may hit hard. However, strawberries are poor fighters on even light tackle. On most reefs in the Bahamas they're as thick as bergalls on Cholera Banks—and just as much a nuisance. Not being as abundant in Florida, they are more prized. White grunts (about one pound) get involved with the large hooks occasionally, and small moray eels frequently gobble up baits when the fishing is slow. Red snappers are infrequent visitors in deeper water, and a few twenty-five pound class cubera snappers have been hooked at night. Other species caught during the weekend trip I made included blue runners, Spanish mackerel, amberjack, and squirrelfish.

Joe Alexander, who runs the restaurant and rod renting concession on the Starship, seems to make a specialty of catching oddball fish whenever he gets a chance to cast a line out. Among his catches have been an African pompano (actually a relatively rare type of jack) in the twenties, and a trumpetfish several feet long. The catch he'll remember longest was a scorpionfish. Before Joe realized what he had, a poisonous spine was buried in a finger and he was in pain for the rest of the trip. Though the pain went away in a few days, Joe's finger was still blown up a week later. Fortunately, the Atlantic species of scorpionfish are not deadly—as are some of the Pacific versions.

After having anxiously waited all winter for the opportunity to go south and give this trip a try, I finally made it to Key West on the last weekend in February.

Al Ristori hefts a big fish taken aboard the Viking Starship on a trip to the Dry Tortugas.

Catches such as this are not uncommon.

Along with a half ton of unnecessary tackle and my camera case, I brought along the infamous "outdoor writer's plague!" That plague, which results in lockjaw among the finny population, has been borne by this carrier over a good portion of the globe—so Paul Forsberg shouldn't feel too badly about the results of the trip. We left the dock at Oceanfront Marina in Key West at 11PM on Friday, with high hopes for the weekend. The catch on the overnight trip a couple of days before had been outstanding—about 3,000 lbs., mostly big mutton snappers. Indeed, there hadn't been a single poor trip to the Tortugas since the Starship arrived in December.

What we couldn't anticipate was the freak result the eclipse of the sun the following Monday would have on the current. The tides boiled over the reefs that weekend, making it very difficult to hold bottom or present a bait correctly. Strong tides are often a problem in our waters around full moons, but fishing then is usually good around slack water. The problem in the Keys is that the current can run in the same direction for days—and never slow down during that period. From the time the lines went over at 4:15 Saturday morning until we finished up at 2PM Sunday, Paul had to contend with the exceptional currents that made some of his best spots virtually unfishable. The mates got plenty of exercise pulling the anchor as we shifted spots continuously. It seemed that every drop would produce a few fish, but soon die out.

Despite the poor conditions, anglers who put in the time at the rail ended up the weekend with good catches. The best catches were made, not by local sharpies, but rather by Long Island pros such as Johnny Kronuch and Al Colban (mate on the Captree "Capt. Gillen"). They, and a few others, ended up with over one hundred pounds of fish—but they didn't spend much time in the bunks either! Fishing during the first day was particularly slow. The best spots in sixty to ninety feet had too much current; while the inshore areas were so loaded with tough antler coral that rigs were broken off continuously. By the evening, we finally found a spot that provided a reasonable compromise: a fishable current and bottom that wasn't too sticky. After the usual spurt of action there was a pause, and it seemed as if we had fished the area out. Then a decent pick started and we worked at anchor through a good part of the night. As the sun started down, the mutton snappers seemed to get more active. I caught a thirteen pounder about 6PM and resisted the urge to partake the great dinner that Joe Alexander was putting out, to fish just a little longer. A half hour later, there was another good pick-up on the half balao I was fishing. This fish felt even stronger than the mutton, frequently running off yards of line in the strong current. Yet, I was still surprised to eventually see the form of a big black grouper appear. I had been fighting that fish carefully, as if it were a snapper, and big groupers will usually "hole you up" when you do that.

That "Viking grouper" went forty pounds, and another of about twenty-five pounds came up on the other side of boat at the same time. After dark, fishing for groupers and snappers slowed down, but porgies and margate kept the action going. The really big catch of the trip was made very late at night. The crew keeps a line on bottom most of the time with a big live bait. Normally that bait is a yellowtail or small grouper, but a couple of missed strikes had eliminated the baits on hand, and the next fish to come up was a five pound porgy. It didn't take long before the culprit returned to the scene of the crime and grabbed that big porgy. The short, stiff rod attached to the rail bent about as far as it would go and the crew broke into action. With Bill Grimm handlining whenever he could, and Joe Alexander picking up line (350 lb. test mono) on the 16/0, the fight was over in about ten minutes. Several gaffs were set into the 295 lb. jewfish—after which the hook fell out of the corner of its mouth! The Starship hasn't missed catching a jewfish in the last seven trips, and had two on one of those trips.

By dawn, most of the customers were out of the

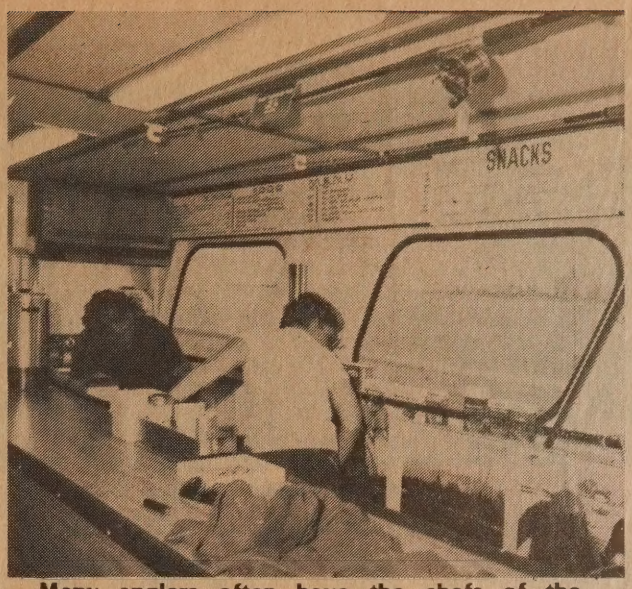
bunks or reclining seats and back at the rail. A good spurt of mutton snapper action got us started. Later, we made a move to the southeast that put us into the hottest fishing of the trip. The yellowtails and red groupers that made up most of the catch weren't as large as normal, but even the casual fishermen who hadn't done a thing up to that point put fish into their bags. Once again, I had a shot at a big fish—though this one wouldn't have done me any good in the pool. It was almost surely a big shark, and I fought it for about ten minutes before it cut the leader.

After enjoying a beautiful sunny weekend at sea, we were greeted by a drizzle at the dock Sunday evening, as a front was coming through. Compared to the fronts we're used to, this was a very mild one. A little further up the coast, temperatures dropped into the fifties, but In Key West even the northwesters are fairly mild. However, it was a little incongruous to watch fishermen in northern rain gear off-loading colorful tropical species onto the fish truck waiting at the dock to buy just about everything for $1.10 per pound. "Just about everything" includes porgies and margate, as well as snappers and groupers. Therefore, a catch of merely one hundred pounds is enough to pay the fare, provide a tip for the mates—and even take care of your food and drink! On this trip (the poorest of the season) there were still quite a few anglers who made expenses. Paul Forsberg estimates that on normal trips, seventy percent do so—and those who don't usually either aren't fishing hard, or just prefer to keep their fish. On most trips the hardworking fishermen actually turn a handsome profit, which helps take care of living expenses in the area.

The "Viking Starship" will be sailing an expanded schedule this winter. Starting on December 7, there will be a forty hour weekend trip right up to the last weekend in April. The fare is $100, plus $4 tax. Starting on December 18, there will be a mid-week, forty hour trip every other week. The fare then is $94.23, plus $3.77 tax. The twenty hour trip will run every other week, starting December 11 for a total fee of $60. Each of these trips leaves at 11PM on the date indicated. You'll get a chance to pick up some sleep in the bunks below before getting to the fishing grounds (a four to five hour ride), and will also spend another night aboard on the forty hour trips. The return trip will get you to the dock the following evening.

Reservations for all these sailings are essential. Paul has set a limit of seventy, and is now filling up on most trips. Get your reservation in by calling (305) 294-2310. You'll find this a most pleasant experience in every way. The 140' "Starship" is so solid, that the normal fifteen to twenty knot winds south Florida gets during the winter aren't even noticeable. About half of the people aboard on this trip were landlubbers, and yet I never noticed any of them get sick. Food is also no problem. Joe and Barbara Alexander run a great galley that serves up hot food almost twenty-four hours a day. Coffee, soda, and beer are also available. Best of all, the prices are better than you'll find on land. The Saturday night dinner featuring ziti and the freshest fish imaginable cost all of $3. For breakfast, you can have pancakes for $1.25, a great ham-and-egg sandwich for $2, or a choice of many other items. Lunch includes some really man-sized hamburgers. Joe also takes care of rod rentals—which are a modest $3. All you really need is light clothing. It's even warm at night, but a light jacket may be welcome at dawn. Rain is rare during the winter, though it's always advisable to travel with a light rain suit. Wear sneakers or boat shoes rather than boots. which are too hot in the tropics.

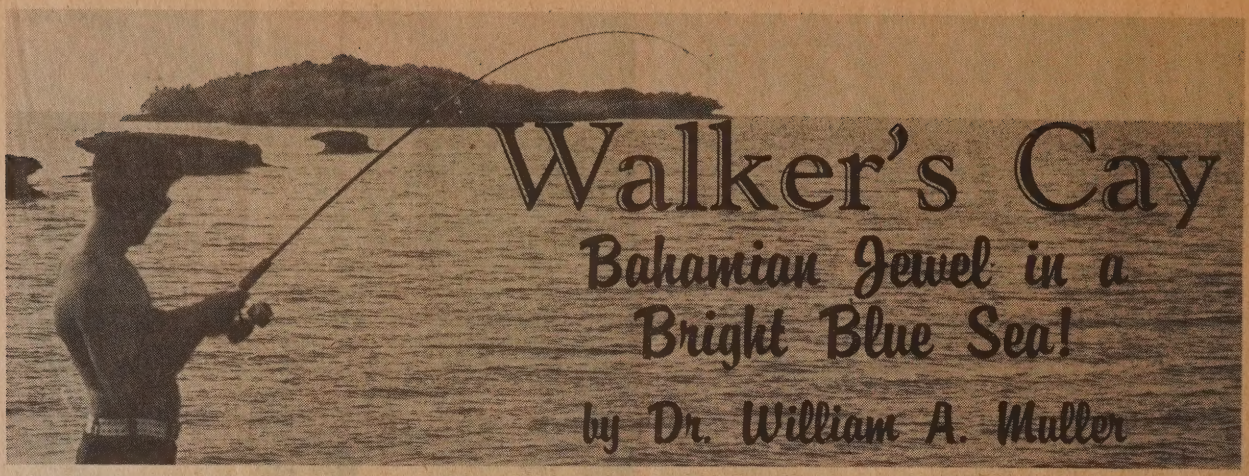
Take along your party boat gear and give the "Viking Starship" Dry Tortugas adventure a try this winter. It's a real thrill, especially for those who haven't fished the tropics before, and you're almost assured of coming up with a good catch—unless I happen to be along! You'll have plenty of company from the Metropolitan Area on every trip; will have a ball catching unusual and colorful fish, and will probably end up making the cost of the trip with your catch! That's a tough combination to beat anywhere!



Many anglers often have the chefs of the Starship's galley cook up part of their catch.

A happy angler dragging his string of fish.

Capt. Paul Forsberg is dwarfed by some of the giant fish caught in the Tortugas.



Walker's Cay

Bahamian Jewel in a Bright Blue Sea!

by Dr. William A. Muller

You can fish from the beach with light tackle at Walker's—note the coral heads in the background.

It has always seemed to me that those events in your life that you anticipate will be the most exciting and fascinating, somehow turn out to be very disappointing; while our most memorable experiences unexpectedly result from out of the blue. However, once in a great while, one's high expectations are matched by the quality of the experience. Such was the case for me several years ago when I first visited the Bahama's jewel of the sea: Walker's Cay.

We had planned the trip for quite some time, and I had heard so much about the beauty of the tiny isle, the quality of the fishing, and the comfortable atmosphere created by the facilities and the warmth of the people there, that I could hardly wait to arrive. As it turned out, all of this was true—plus a whole lot more. Even the trip down to Fort Lauderdale was a smooth jet ride at 35,000'. Many carriers fly there, or nearby cities, so that with only modest advanced booking, we were able to buy seats on what turned out to be a nearly empty airplane on an early Monday morning flight. From the start, we had planned to take it easy. No rushing from plane to plane for this crew. We arrived early, enjoyed a quiet day at a nearby motel, had a full night's sleep before embarking on the final leg to Walker's Cay the next morning. A local carrier brought us to the Island. The flight was short and comfortable, in spite of the fact that the plane was only a small, two engine craft and the flight, of course, spanned the ocean. Sometimes a seaplane is used to transport guests back and forth from mainland to island. I was looking forward to the seaplane ride since I had never been on one; but I'd rather be on a plane in sound mechanical condition that lands on the ground than one that lands on water, but with engine trouble. So I swallowed my desires and boarded the conventional aircraft.

Not everyone takes the plane. Some take the boat; usually their own boat! There are many folks who trailer boats in the twenty foot class to the East Coast Florida cities of Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. Others with larger craft pilot them down the Coast or out of the Gulf of Mexico to these cities before making the short run to the east and Walker's Cay. Actually, the trip is a small one and covers only approximately 120 miles. But since the trip is across open water, most skippers are careful to watch the weather. This is especially true during the winter months of January and February when sudden, fast moving cold fronts and swift coastal storms can turn a calm, warm sea into a boiling froth within minutes. It is especially common for skippers to bring their own boats to the Island during the various tournaments that are held during the year. One of the biggest fishing festivals occurs in April, since this is one of the best fishing months around the Island. Many species are migrating through the area on the other side of the reef, while smaller species have set up housekeeping near, or on the reef. Anyone planning to use their own boat for transportation to the Island, and to fish once at the Island, should call in advance to secure a dockage at the fine and well equipped marina.

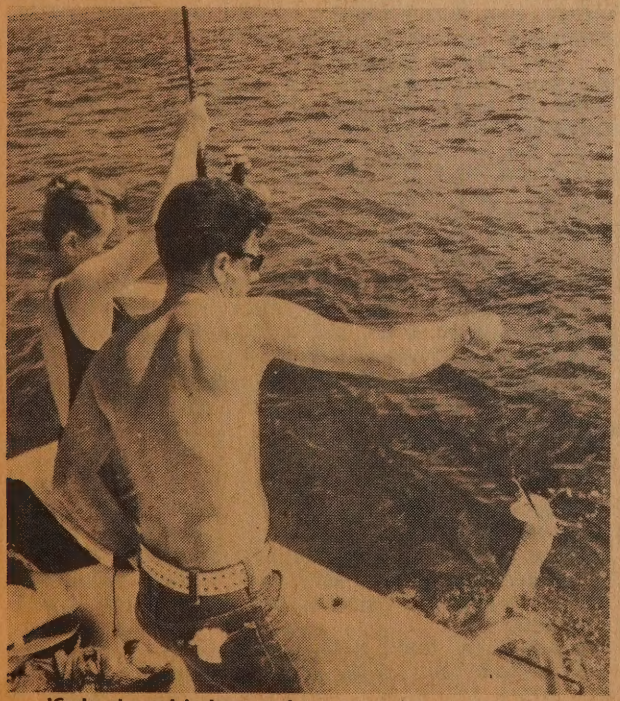
The marina features a harbor master who keeps the activities of the harbor purring smoothly; a store which sells everything from food to tackle, as well as many eager assistants, and the usual amenities. You will have to pay, by the day, for the marina spot; but you will then be entitled to use all other facilities of the hotel complex. Since this is the age of rapid inflation, it would be wise to inquire about existing dockage rates at the time you plan to make the trip. The same holds true for the cost of the plane shuttle to the Island. Incidentally, this is a Bahamian Island, which means that you will need proof of United States Citizenship in order to enter and leave the Island. A birth certificate will be sufficient.

When we disembarked from the aircraft on the Island, I was immediately struck by the sound of the place. It was unique even for the Bahamas, since most other larger Bahamian Islands possess a slow bustle and hustle. Instead, there was a silence; not a dreadful silence, but rather a peaceful silence punctuated only by the songs of several exotic birds. Some of the birds were quite far off and yet their sounds drifted through the tropical vegetation the way shouts carry far through a snowstorm. Once we had completed a very simple and courteous customs inspection, we proceeded to the hotel on foot across a trail that is barely several hundred yards long. Again, the songs of the birds floated about us and the warm sub-tropical sun bathed us in its glory. Surely, this was Paradise for four New Yorkers rushing south to avoid the snows and cold of mid-January.

I know that you are all very interested in the fishing; so let me soothe your curiosity by telling you that we caught all the fish that anyone could want and then wait a few paragraphs to tell you all about it. You see, there is so much more to the enjoyment of the place, and it must be told. It is probably clear from my glowing descriptions that Walker's Cay possesses an incredible beauty that is unique, partly because it is small, partly because except for one to two maintenance vehicles no cars and trucks are permitted; partly because the standards of conduct and the way of life on the Island are maintained at such a high level. Therefore, there is none of the squalor that one finds on other islands; there is none of the destruction of wildlife habitats; no smoke from oily fires, and no crime. The staff is mostly of British origin, with many Bahamians who travel each day from nearby islands by boat. We enjoyed walking about the Island on many occasions—both day and night. It provided the opportunity to be with one's self—a treat that can rarely be enjoyed on Long Island. We looked at the coral heads at high tide and low tide, gathered shells along the southern beach, studied the many types of trees, talked to people—both workers and guests alike—and thought great thoughts. Perhaps this description does not inspire you, yet it is a rare treat to do these things in the modern world.

(Continued on next page.)

From time to time the light tackle fisherman is surprised by a big fish such as this 40-lb. 'cuda taken on a Tri-Fin Eel.



'Cuda abound inshore and are great fun on light tackle.

Natives fish with bait at night using the age-old technique of beer can, baited hook, sinker and line.

The facilities are fantastic. Little more needs to be said. The food is gourmet quality and seafood is featured. We enjoyed many new seafood dishes and fell in love with conch chowder—a spicy and flavorful soup that tastes a lot like clam chowder, but with a heartier character. Local fish and rice meals were a highlight and we found that we looked forward to the meals as much as the fishing. There are saltwater and freshwater pools and they are crystal clear and inviting. Tennis courts, and an ample game room round out the facilities.

For us, it was a total vacation, not just a fishing vacation in winter. We danced, ate, fished, and swam with equal enthusiasm and the days disappeared as quickly as shooting stars in the night sky. Most days we combined activities. Sometimes we'd be up early for a swim followed by breakfast and a walk to enjoy the beaches, flowers, trees, birds, and beautiful peacefulness. A midday fishing trip was complemented with a fine box lunch prepared by the chef for us. We needed only to make the request, for the lunch to be ready and waiting. I guess we also enjoyed too many pina coladas—the local islands' drink that tastes sweet and easy but can catch up with you quickly like a stubborn mule dragged one step too far.

The local color and charm of Walker's Cay is all well and good; but in reality, many of our readers are very interested in the fishing. One could argue that without the fishing, it might be more worthwhile to visit a larger Bahamian Island which would boast a greater variety of places to see, and activities. I might argue against that opinion, but I nonetheless appreciate the position. Will I catch fish in Walker's Cay? What is the best season? What equipment should I bring? These are all very important questions. Without doubt, the best fishing near the Island occurs from April through October; but unlike Long Island which has the same prime time season, fishing never really dies at Walker's Cay. Even in January and February, water temperatures are in the seventies to near eighty most of the time. Frankly, we find it hard to leave Long Island fishing during the prime season and prefer to head south in winter to catch up on a little tanning and relaxation, as well as to enjoy some fine fishing. Needless to say, the Island fills up with guests during prime time and prices have a way of following the demand for accommodations up through the roof. No, we prefer the winter and perhaps you will, too.

Fishermen who visit Walker's during the spring speak of both big and little fish that cooperate to fight each other for the baits and lures. I wonder how many tuna or giant marlin it takes to make a vacation—or, for that matter, how many jacks, barracuda, grouper, snapper, and the like are needed to quality the fishing as "hot." Perhaps our perspective has been distorted by recent poor fishing on Long Island, but we do not have to fill the box within an hour to feel that the fishing has been worthwhile. However, it was our experience that we caught fish on each and every outing; that in most cases, we had a fish on the first cast of the trip; that we caught fish of rather impressive sizes on most outings, and that we had many hits, many lost fish, and many landed fish on each outing! What more could anyone ask for?

It is important to point out that the fisherman has a choice of fishing inshore or offshore. Obviously, the offshore fishing will be more expensive and more time consuming; while the inshore fishing will produce smaller fish. We prefer the light tackle inshore scene and found that fishing possibilities within a half-mile of the harbor were abundant and productive. Unless you bring along your own larger boat, you'll have to arrange a charter for the offshore fishing. Again, prices are up and down with the season and the constant high inflation of the last decade. Check with your travel agent or the hotel for up-to-the-minute prices. Offshore, you'll likely troll and catch big barracuda, some tuna, some marlin, and an assortment of other big game species. In spring and summer, both the quantity and variety of the fish improves. Inshore, you can fish from the beach or from a small runabout. You can rent a small craft from the hotel and again, prices vary, so a last minute inquiry will provide the best information. Regardless of whether you elect to use a larger craft for big game fishing or a small craft for inshore exploring, you can figure that the experience will cost several hundred dollars. During the winter, rates for boat use at Walker's will be comparable to what you might encounter in our local waters of Long Island. These rates will increase during the peak season.

Although it is possible to catch many smaller fish from the beach, the possibilities improve inshore with a small boat. The increased mobility will allow you to explore nearby cuts in the reef, coral heads, and grass beds. What can you expect to catch? Barracuda will be the mainstay and these fish will range in size from one to two pounds, to as large as thirty and forty pounds! Many fish will be teen-sized and this is quite an experience on light tackle. Jacks, such as jack crevalle, amberjack, and rainbow jacks are available. We found that the jack crevalles were particularly eager at night where we were able to catch them from the beach on small Rebels and RedFins. Houndfish are also always around and these are very exciting fish to catch even if few people get excited about them as high quality game fish. If you have never caught a houndfish—be prepared. They dash and jump all over the place faster than a lightning bolt. Hold onto that rod and enjoy! The bottom fishermen can catch snappers, grunts, trigger fish, and grouper, as well as other species.

If you plan a trip, it is very important to bring along some key fishing equipment. Most of the natives will laugh at tube lures and swimming plugs, yet they produce terrifically. You'll not be able to buy them there—so bring some along. Bring at least a dozen five-and-a-half inch Rebels and RedFins per fisherman; a dozen, one ounce white, red and yellow WhipTails; at least a dozen red Eel Worms and Tri-Fin Eels up to several ounces. These lures will be the most productive. Bring several small reels loaded with ten pound test line and a quarter-pound spool of ten pound test line, too. It is wise to carry plenty of snaps, swivels, and wire leaders, as well as extra treble hooks, a sportsman's pliers, and a small gaff. Many of these tropical species come equipped with quite a set of dentures—thus making the wire leaders and extra lures necessary. Seven foot, two piece rods seem to be the best since you can handle even the occasional larger fish and transport the rods on aircraft without great difficulty. Use strong rod-carrying tubes clearly marked with your name, destination, airline, and flight number.

The offshore fisherman who comes with his or her own boat can, of course, enjoy the luxury of toting as much or as little equipment as they see fit. The fisherman who flies over and who plans on the deep sea stuff, has no problem with gear since the chartered vessel comes with all the tackle and gear needed for a successful day of tangling with the open-ocean giants. However, if some of you have a few secret weapons in mind, there is no rule that prevents you from sharing it with the captain!

Although one can make arrangements independently through a travel agent for such a trip, readers of this magazine are fortunate and are able to take advantage of a special package offer that is available this winter from the management of Walker's Cay and offered through the Utopia Travel Agency. A special package plan can be arranged for March 26 through March 30, 1980. That includes five days and four nights at Walker's Cay, round trip airfare, hotel accommodations, three full days of deep sea fishing, three meals a day, cocktail party every night, taxes, and gratuities. The price for all of this is an amazing $649 per person, double occupancy. During the spring and summer, this same package would easily cost around $1,500 per person! If you are interested, call Utopia Travel at (212) 961-0700.

You know, that's such a great deal, I think that I may make a return visit. There's nothing like a warm sun and a fast-running fish in the heart of winter to brighten the spirits!

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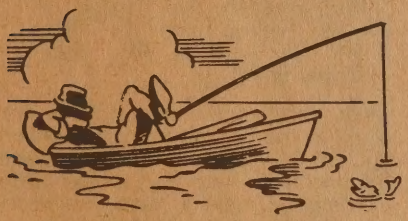

Chris Hall took this 7 lb. bluefish on a homemade plug fishing the surf under the Montauk light. Subscriber Club photo.

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FISHING REPORTS

MONTAUK

Captain Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** had both boats out Sunday for a total of 75-80 fish coming over the rails. Most of the catch consisted of cod in the 5-8 lb. range. The pool cod ran 21 lbs. Pollack, blacks and a few macks were also pulled in. The pollack ran 3-4 lbs. The boats fished the Block Island grounds and all catches were on clam. Three days during the week, cod catches averaged 8-10 fish a man with a sprinkling of blackfish mixed in.

MORICHES BAY

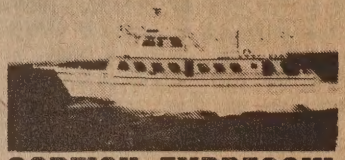
Chet at **B&B Tackle** knows of a lone codfisherman John Podlasai on his boat Black Duck who nailed a 12 lb. cod Sunday and a load of dogfish fishing out of Moriches Inlet. Chet says the flounder fishing is tremendous now with excellent catches being made at the Westhampton Bridge area which of course is good for the shore anglers. Catches of 80-100 flounder not uncommon from 3/4 to 1 lb. on worms.

CAPTREE

The Capt. Scotty reports that he's had a good cod week. Early in the week he had 20 cod one day in the 3-5 lb. range. By the end of the

★CAPTREE★

SPEEDY VI
★RIGHT SIDE OF DOCK★
Sen. Cit. Rate Weekdays



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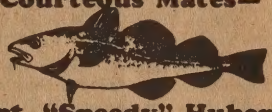
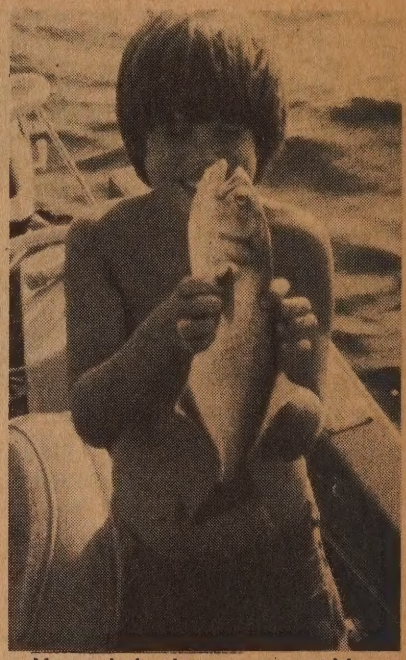


Capt. "Speedy" Hubert
(516) 661-1652



Young Luke Joerger grasps his first bluefish. He landed it while fishing with his Dad, Jeff, in Princess Bay. Subscriber photo.

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Christopher Miller's first fish, a flounder taken off the Babylon flats this fall, aboard his Dad's boat Razzberry. Subscriber Club Photo.

week, most of the fish were in the 30-46 lb. range. Saturday was blown out. On Sunday, a 41½ lber. copped the pool with most fish in the 25-35 lb. range. Sunday's catch totaled 15 cod. George says the fish seem to be of two general sizes 3-5 lbers. and 4-20 lbers. Sunday's pool fish went to Joe King. Friday's total was 18 cod with a 46 lber. taking the pool. A few whiting and ling mixed in daily and not many doggies. This is 90% wreck fishing with bait.

Both the **Captree Queen** and **Speedy VI** reported several cod caught on their boats fishing open bottom.

Captain Roy Mazziata of the **Blue Albatross** reported he's expecting a new vessel very shortly and that his boat has been purchased by Captain John Rainis who will be chartering out of Greenport.

SEAFORD

Wanser's Tackle tells us that flounders are still being caught by the die-hards at Four Corners and the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh Bridges on mussels and clams.

BELLMORE

The Singing Dog at **Merrick Tackle** reports that good size flounder up to 2 dozen a private boat are being taken now on mussel bait and chum in the deep holes in Merrick Bay, any running tide.

Craig Lunde, 13, caught this 38½ lb. striped bass fishing off the Lido Beach Hotel with Lupo Bunker Spoons aboard the charterboat "Sea Bee."

FREEPORT

Charvin Fishing Station and Walt Scott both tell us that aboard the **Capt. Al** on Sunday, Chester Branch of Oceanside grabbed the pool with a 40½ lb. cod. Runner-up was Stan Ferret of East Meadow with 3 cod up to 38½ lbs. Richie also knew of one private boat that fished open bottom with bait S.E. of the inlet in about 70' of water that had 18 cod. Cod is on the upswing he says. Charvin is now closed for the season and will reopen April 1, 1980.

Captain Walt Scott of the charter boat **Acme II** tells us Sunday, Lou Lecrosse of the Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club totaled 3 cod running 30-44 lbs. Walt was working open bottom 18 miles S.E. of Jones Inlet. Nothing under 15 lbs. was caught. Everything was on bait.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin II** reports that Sunday's charter saw 3 cod in the mid-30s bounce on the deck along with some other small cod. They also had an assortment of ling, blacks and mackerel. The boat fished various wrecks S.E. of the inlet. There are still several openings for December 22's reservation trip.

The **Aloma II** reports they've been having super whiting and ling catches, whiting up to 3 lbs. Full bags says Captain Spider, fishing about an hour from the inlet in an area roughly 5 miles east of Ambrose. Ling running up to 5 lbs. Lots of doubles. A few macks showing up, too.

Captain Richie of the **Starstream II** tells us he had some good jumbo cod Sunday. Floral Park angler John Scholl took a 52 and a 30 lb. cod fishing amidships. Eight fish came aboard in the 25-30 lb. class. There were also several smaller cod and a few big ling and blackfish. Sunday's

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Dom Petrone boated this 80 lb. bluefin tuna fishing out of Sheepshead Bay. Photo courtesy of Cross Bay Bait and Tackle.

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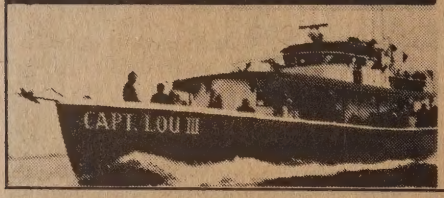

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Chic Hinzpeter proudly shows off his first striper taken off of Jones Inlet. The fish was part of a catch of blues taken aboard Afternoon Delight in November. Subscriber Club photo.

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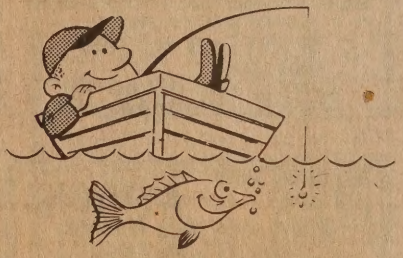

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★WHITING★
Klondike VII
SAILS 7AM SAT. & SUN.
The *Klondike VII* will no longer be sailing from its present location. We are now docked at the end of Fort Slocum Rd. off of Pelham Road, New Rochelle.
Capt. PETE PEARSON (914) 738-4593

Alan Bandler and wife Terri fished aboard Captain Arnold's "Shalidon" in late October and landed this 100 lb. blue shark, along with a mess of nice blues averaging 15 lbs.

trip totaled 20 cod, all on clam. Richie hit four wrecks and also open bottom. On Saturday a few cod were decked but the boat had to come back in the late morning as the winds just got too fierce. The water is cooling says Richie and the catches should build.

The **Capt. Lou III** reports very productive flounder fishing all week with high hook ranging in the 50s. The fish are now mostly 3/4 lb. size. In Saturday's blow, Al Brassaik took the pool and was high hook with 39 keeper flounder. Mike wishes all his customers happy holidays.

POINT LOOKOUT

Captain Dennis of the **Marie III** had charter for Jeff Brandes and group from Flushing out Sunday. They totaled 12 cod to 33 lbs. and a mess of whiting. Dennis fished 155° out of Jones in 100' of water on open bottom. A girl by the name of Chris took the pool with a 33 lb. cod. Early in the day he had whiting closer in, the cod taking hold the last two hours of the trip. Dennis says he still has a couple of openings for his cod trip December 16.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Charlie at **Mike's Bait and Tackle** says bass are pickier now at the Tin Can and Norton's Point. Some fish are being trolled on umbrellas, schoolie sized fish however. Very good catches of whiting and some mackerel and a few ling in the Ambrose area, whiting to 2 lbs. Blackfish still being caught at buoy 17.

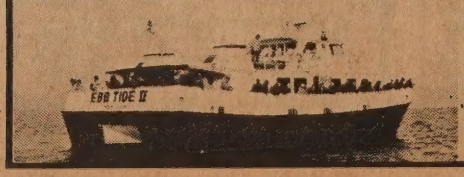
The **Dorothy B** reported good catches of whiting taken at both Ambrose and Scotland, a 45 minutes ride from dockside. Fares are filling more then a five gallon pail and are catching them 4 at a time. This fishing is being done with clams and whiting bait in 55 feet of water.

The **New Amberjack V** is also enjoying excellent whiting fishing at Ambrose and Scotland, fish running up to 2½-3 pounds. Loads of fish are being taken on clam and whiting bait and catches are filling 5 gallon pails. Night fishing for whiting is also doing very well.

WEST END SOUND

Guy DiBlasio called to say that he's "catching striped bass like crazy" right off the pier in his neighborhood behind the UN building and up around the Throgs Neck Bridge. Guy said he took keepers from 3½-8 lbs. on Salty Dog heads and Creame tails. Friend Al went out on his boat and diamond jigged

★CITY ISLAND★



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Attention L.I.F. Readers:
SUBSCRIPTION RATE TO GO UP JAN. 1st

"One of the more difficult facets of the editor's job is that he is occasionally required to disseminate bad news to the readers of the publication."

That was the opening line of the announcement we made the last time we were forced to raise our subscription rates. In these inflationary times when virtually all commodities have been skyrocketing in price, we can identify with the feeling many may have when they read this news—we can picture a wind-chilled surf fisherman on the beach casting for "just one more bass," or a numb-fingered flounder fisherman sitting in a skiff, mumbling incoherently *"et tu, Brute?"* But with inflation this year in the neighborhood of 13 to 15% annually, we have no choice but to raise our subscription, newsstand and advertising rates in order to remain an economically viable enterprise.

Therefore, as much as we regret it, we have no alternative. Effective with the first issue of January 1980, the cover price of L.I.F. will be 60-cents. The new subscription rates will be: one-year, $13; two-years, $24; and three-years, $33. In the past we have afforded our readers the opportunity to take out a new subscription, or extend their present subscription, for as many years as they wished before the new prices came into effect. Once again we will hold to our past policy and allow unlimited renewals. Any subscription received in our offices postmarked before midnight, December 31st, 1979 will be honored at the old rates, no matter how many years the subscription is for.

It doesn't make a difference how long your present subscription has to run—however long you renew for now will simply be added on to the end of your present subscription. By renewing early you will also be entitled to receive the free 100-yard spool of Stren Line we are offering as a premium. As a regular subscriber you will also be entitled to classified ads at half-price, a 20% discount on all books in *The Fisherman's Library,* use of the *Inflation Fighter Discount Coupons* we run all summer, and a host of other subscriber-oriented programs we have planning for 1980.

The last time we raised our rates and made this offer, our mailroom got snowed under with the avalanche of renewal orders. To make the processing easier and to eliminate errors, we ask that you use the form below to renew your subscription, and *please* attach a copy of the mailing label from a current issue. New subscribers should fill out the subscription blank on page 32 of this issue. If you don't want to cut up your magazine, just write the info on a piece of paper and tape the mailing label to it.

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stripers right behind the UN and also up around the Throgs Neck Bridge, also catching some herring, white perch and a few flounder.

CITY ISLAND

Open boat **Ebb Tide II** called to say they have now switched over to whiting and ling and are sailing Saturdays and Sundays only at 6:30 a.m.

Dick Zwielein of Port Washington with a 38 lb. bass taken on a Baby Bunker Spoon aboard the "Kim" out of Atlantic Beach.

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Al Ristori's Fishing Machine: 1978 MAKO 21/1979 Evinrude 200 w/power trim for sale at end of season. Boat fully equipped and available with or without accessories: VHF and CB Radios; outriggers, downrigger, console cover, etc. In water at Montauk Marine Basin. Come out for demonstration ride. Call: 201-334-8059 or 516-668-3130; or leave message at Montauk Marine Basin, 516-668-5900.

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2-$245; 4-$350; 6-$480; 9.9-$630; 15-$714; 25-$860; 35-$960; 50-$1200; 55-$1365; 70-$1578; 85-$1760; 100-$1830; 115-$1890; 140-$1988; 150-$2516; 175-$2596; 200-$2696; 235-$2860. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY. 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

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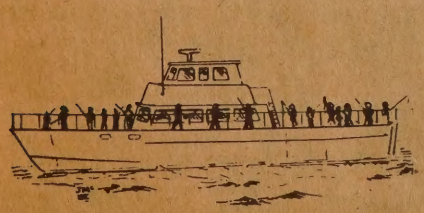

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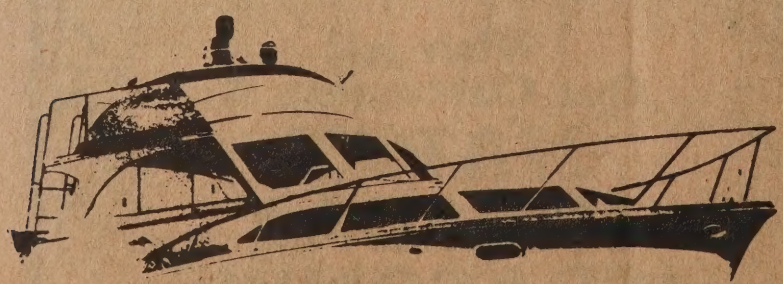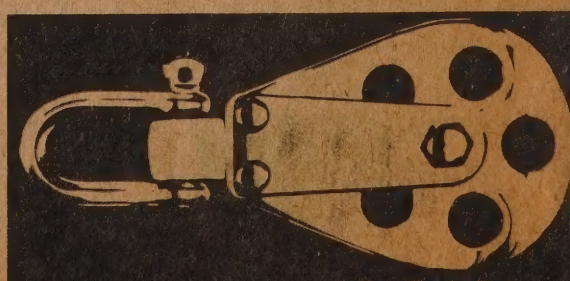
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